

What is claimed is:

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:
  - (a) the DNA sequence of SEQ ID NO:1;
  - (b) an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding an amino acid sequence comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;
  - (c) an isolated nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes to either strand of a denatured, double-stranded DNA comprising the nucleic acid sequence of (a) or (b) under conditions of moderate stringency in 50% formamide and 6XSSC, at 42°C with washing conditions of 60°C, 0.5XSSC, 0.1% SDS;
  - (d) an isolated nucleic acid molecule derived by *in vitro* mutagenesis from SEQ ID NO:1;
  - (e) an isolated nucleic acid molecule degenerate from SEQ ID NO:1 as a result of the genetic code; and
  - (f) an isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of human ss3939 DNA, mouse ss3939 DNA, an allelic variant of human ss3939 DNA, an allelic variant of mouse ss3939 DNA, and a species homolog of ss3939 DNA.
2. A recombinant vector that directs the expression of the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.
3. An isolated polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.
4. An isolated polypeptide according to claim 3 having a molecular weight of approximately 40.1 kD as determined by SDS-PAGE.
5. An isolated polypeptide according to claim 3 in non-glycosylated form.

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6. Isolated antibodies that bind to a polypeptide of claim 3.
7. Isolated antibodies according to claim 6, wherein the antibodies are monoclonal antibodies.
8. A host cell transfected or transduced with the vector of claim 2.
9. A method for the production of ss3939 polypeptide comprising culturing a host cell of claim 8 under conditions promoting expression, and recovering the polypeptide from the culture medium.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein the host cell is selected from the group consisting of bacterial cells, yeast cells, plant cells, and animal cells.
11. The method of claim 9, wherein the host cell is a mammalian cell.
12. An isolated ss3939 polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:
  - (a) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;
  - (b) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5;
  - (c) amino acids 25-374 of SEQ ID NO:2;
  - (d) amino acids 24-374 of SEQ ID NO:2;
  - (e) amino acids 25-227 of SEQ ID NO:5;
  - (f) amino acids 24-374 of SEQ ID NO:5; and
  - (g) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6.
13. An oligomer comprising a polypeptide of claim 3.